convenient locations and augmenting the medical/administrative team.

Interview given by the Cabinet Secretary to Saudi Paper

6624. SHRI VERENDRA KATARIA: SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an interview of the Cabinet Secretary Shri Zafar Saifullah, to a Saudi Paper last month which was published on okaz in Riyadh, a week before Pakistan tabled its resolution on Kashmir;

(b) if so. what are the details of the replies given to the press by Shri Saifullah;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Shri Saifullah is reported to have spoken of the Government's failure to protect the Babri Masjid from Hindu onslaught and also dissatisfaction with the representation of minorities in Government jobs; and

(d) if so. what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Saudi paper, OKAZ, carried on 18.2.94 an interview, the account of which was found by the paper itself to have been grossly distorted, and in consequence of which it published the correct version as per its records is not only the OKAZ newspaper on 8.4.94 but also in its English daily, the Arab News, on 9.4.94 with a condensed version appearing also in another newspaper, the Riyadh Daily, on 4.4.94.

(b) The questions posed at the interview of the Cabinet secretary focussed on the Cabinet Secretary's functions, the conditions of muslims in lndia, constrains faced by Muslims in India, the future of the muslim minority, the demolition of Babri Masjid vis-a-vis Hindu extremism positions of importance held by Muslims, and Indo-Saudi relations. The Cabinet Secretary, while characterizing the demolition of the structure as an act of barbarism, had stressed that the Government of India had taken swift corrective action in the wake of the incident. He had also mentioned that a number of persons have been indicted because of their connivance with, this act and also that the Government of India stands committed to the construction of the mosque, as stated by the Prime Minister on a number of occasions. Regarding the representation of minorities in Government jobs, do Cabinet Secretary had mentioned, inter alia, that India is truly secular society in which religious minorities are not discriminated against and also that the Government of India has been making assiduous efforts to rectify the situation (with regard to jobs in Government services and in the public sector) and to create an environment in which people of all communities are given fair and adequate opportunity to get employment in the Government and public sector.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pak Attempts to Fund Subversives Through Nepal Bank

6625. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Economics Times, New Delhi of 4th March, 1994 under the heading Pak attempt to fund subversives through Nepal Bank;

(b) if so, whether Govemment have ascertained the terms and conditions of joint agreement between Habib Bank of Pakistan and Himalayan Bank of Kathmandu and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Himalayan Bank propose to set its branches equipped with computerised telebanking facilities in Terai region of Nepal which is contiguous with Indian border;

(d) whether it is also a fact that this Bank is having dealing with some prominent hotels and travel, agencies which are known for their dubious acitivities and its branches on the Terai region would be used for financing clandestine activities on the Indian soil; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government of India in this regard and steps taken in the matter to frustrate the move of Pak Government.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (c) Yes. Sir. Government have seen reports to this effect.

(b), (d) and (e) Government are confident that the Government of Nepal will not permit illegal activities by foreign joint ventures on its soil attacking a friendly third country like India. When such activities take place Government of India cooperate with the Government of Nepal to curb them.

Arrest of JKLF Chief

6626. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government arc aware that recently BBC while reporting about the arrest of JKLF Chief Javed Mir in its news bulletin described Kashmir as "India occupied Kashmir";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof. and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The news report in the English daily The Asian Age of 15.4.1994, which claimed that the BBC used the phrase "India occupied Kashmir" while reporting about the arrest of JKLF Chief Javed Mir in its news bulletin has come to the notice of the Government. However, the transcript provided by the Central Monitoring Service of All India Radio docs not carry any reference to this phrase. The BBC too has also denied using this phrase in the said news bulletin.

(c) A protest was not felt necessary in this case since the BBC denied use of this phrase and our monitoring service also confirmed this.

जिनेवा सम्मेलन में भारत का समर्थन

6627. **श्री गोविन्दराव आदिक:** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री 27 अप्रैल, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 4629 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में हुए जिनेवा सम्मेलन में चीन तथा कुछ अन्य देशों ने भारत का समर्थन किया था; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पिछले 6 वर्षों के दौरान चीन और भारत के संबंध धीरे-धीरे सुधर रहे हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया): (क) और (ख) जी हां, संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार आयोग के अधिकांश सदस्यों ने जिनमें चीन भी शामिल है, जम्मू और कश्मीर में मानवाधिकारों के तथाकथित उल्लंघन से संबंधित पाकिस्तान के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन नहीं किया। इसके परिणामस्वरूप पाकिस्तान ने यह प्रस्ताव स्वेच्छा से और बिना किसी शर्त के वापस ले लिया। पिछले छह वर्षों से भारत-चीन संबंधों में निरन्तर सुधार हो रहा है।